

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mirror assembly deployment system of a display unit, comprising:

an imaging mirror;

5 an extension link assembly coupled to the imaging mirror, the extension link assembly comprising an extension spring coupled to a housing of the display unit;

10 a compression link assembly coupled to the extension link assembly, the compression link assembly comprising a compression spring;

a fold mirror coupled to the compression link assembly;

15 wherein the extension spring is configured to at least partially unload when the imaging mirror is released from a recessed position to cause the imaging mirror to rotate to an at least partially deployed position; and

20 wherein the compression spring is configured to unload when the extension spring at least partially unloads to cause the fold mirror to rotate from a recessed position to a deployed position.

2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a  
25 pivot assembly coupled to the extension link assembly and to the compression link assembly to unload the compression spring of the compression link assembly.

3. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a  
30 hinge coupled to the imaging mirror, the hinge configured to slide in a slot of the extension link assembly to further rotate the imaging mirror.

4. A system for displaying an image at a display unit, comprising:

an imaging mirror;

an extension link assembly coupled to the imaging  
5 mirror, the extension link assembly comprising an  
extension spring coupled to a housing of the display  
unit;

a compression link assembly coupled to the extension  
link assembly, the compression link assembly comprising a  
10 compression spring;

a fold mirror coupled to the compression link  
assembly;

wherein the extension spring is configured to at  
least partially unload when the imaging mirror is  
15 released from a recessed position to cause the imaging  
mirror to rotate to an at least partially deployed  
position;

wherein the compression spring is configured to  
unload when the extension spring at least partially  
20 unloads to cause the fold mirror to rotate from a  
recessed position to a deployed position; and

a video source coupled to the display unit to  
transmit the image to the display unit for reflection by  
the fold mirror toward the imaging mirror.

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5. The system of Claim 4, further comprising a  
pivot assembly coupled to the extension link assembly and  
to the compression link assembly to unload the  
compression spring of the compression link assembly.

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6. The system of Claim 4, further comprising a  
hinge coupled to the imaging mirror, the hinge configured

to slide in a slot of the extension link assembly to further rotate the imaging mirror.

7. The system of Claim 4, wherein the video source  
5 comprises a camera unit of an auxiliary vision system of a vehicle.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein the camera unit comprises:

10 a lens system operable to direct energy from a scene toward a detector;

wherein the detector comprises an array of detector elements each operable to receive energy from a portion of the scene and to convert the received energy into  
15 information representative of the received energy and to send the information associated with at least some of the detector elements to the display unit.

9. The system of Claim 4, wherein the video source  
20 comprises a global positioning satellite system.

10. The system of Claim 4, wherein the display unit comprises a liquid crystal display operable to project the image onto the fold mirror for reflection toward the  
25 imaging mirror.

11. A method for deploying a mirror assembly of a display unit, comprising:

releasing an imaging mirror from a recessed position, the imaging mirror coupled to an extension link assembly;

at least partially unloading an extension spring of the extension link assembly thereby causing lateral movement of the extension link assembly to rotate the imaging mirror from a recessed position to a first position; and

unloading a compression spring of a compression link assembly coupled to a fold mirror of the mirror assembly thereby causing rotation of the fold mirror from a recessed position to a first position.

12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising rotating the imaging mirror from the first position to a second position suitable for presenting an image to a user.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein rotating the imaging mirror from the first position to the second position comprises sliding a hinge coupled to the imaging mirror within a slot of the extension link assembly.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein unloading a compression spring of a compression link assembly comprises rotating a pivot assembly coupled to the extension link assembly and to the compression link assembly to unload the compression spring of the compression link assembly.

15. A method for displaying an image at a display unit, comprising:

receiving an image from a video source coupled to the display unit;

5 releasing an imaging mirror from a recessed position, the imaging mirror coupled to an extension link assembly;

at least partially unloading an extension spring of the extension link assembly thereby causing lateral  
10 movement of the extension link assembly to rotate the imaging mirror from a recessed position to an at least partially deployed position;

unloading a compression spring of a compression link assembly coupled to a fold mirror of the mirror assembly  
15 thereby causing rotation of the fold mirror from a recessed position to a deployed position;

projecting the image onto the fold mirror; and  
reflecting the image onto the imaging mirror.

20 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein receiving an image from a video source comprises receiving an image from a camera unit of an auxiliary vision system of a vehicle.

25 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein receiving an image from a camera unit of an auxiliary vision system of a vehicle comprises:

directing energy from a scene towards a detector;  
receiving energy from a portion of the scene at each  
30 of a plurality of detector elements;

converting the energy received at each detector element into information representative of the received energy; and

forming a visible image using the information  
5 representative of the received energy.

18. The method of Claim 15, wherein receiving an image from a video source comprises receiving an image from a global positioning satellite system.